

Application Serial No. 10/010,304
Amendment dated June 4, 2009
Reply to Office Action dated Feb. 4, 2009

REMARKS

Claims 6-8, 10, 28, 33-48 and 52-57 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 6-8, 28, 45 and 48 have been amended. Claim 47 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter claimed therein. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant claim amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, for example, by the subject matter on page 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claims 6-8, 10, 28, 33-48 and 52-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant respectfully submits that the instant claim amendments render this rejection moot. Specifically, all of the combinations of dissolving and swelling agents yield mixtures in which the entire volume of polymer solution plus added swelling agent has transformed to a gel, as expressly recited on page 12 of the specification.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 6-8, 10, 28, 33-46, 48 and 52-57.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicant would be desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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June 4, 2009

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